

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165675

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: UK VIEWS ON SALE OF C-47'S TO GUATEMALA

REFERENCE: STATE 146420

1. DCM MORETON OF UK EMBASSY CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS JULY 10 FOLLOWING UP ON JUNE 16 LUNCHEON. MORETON SAID HMG HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY OUR STATEMENTTHAT C-47 ISSUE UNDER RECONSIDERATION. UK DISTURBED, HOWEVER, BY INDICATIONS THAT WE MIGHT BE CONSIDERING SALE OF AT LEAST SOME C-47'S TO GUATEMALANS. UK WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT SOLE REASON GUATEMALANS WISHED INCREASE AIR FORCE WAS FOR INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT. MORETON ARGUED THAT TO MOUNT EFFEC- TIVE PARADROP, AT THIS TIME, GOG WOULD HAVE TO MOBILIZE CIVIL AIR FLEET WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ADVANCE WARNING. WITH ARAVA, GOG WOULD HAVE CAPABILITY OF DROPPING 440 MEN BY SURPRISE;ADDITION OF FIVE C-47'S WOULD INCREASE CAPABILI-
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TY TO 580, WHILE ADDITION OF TEN C-47'S WOULD RAISE TOTAL TO

720.

2. MORETON SAID THAT UK DID NOT WANT TO BUILD-UP GARRISON,
PARTICULARLY WHILE TALKS GOING ON, BUT INCREASED GUATEMALAN
AIRLIFT GREATLY COMPLICATED DEFENSE OF BELIZE. ACCORDINGLY,
UK WOULD REGARD SALE OF C-47'S AS "UNHELPFUL DEVELOPMENT"

AND ASKED USG TO GIVE "FULL WEIGHT" TO ITS VIEWS.

3. WE ASKED IF ARAVA ALONE MIGHT FORCE UK TO REASSESS
MANNING LEVELS; MORETON SPECULATED THAT IT WOULD NOT
NECESSARILY LEAD TO INCREASE IN GARRISON STRENGTH. IN
RESPONSE TO QUERY AS TO WHETHER WITHDRAWAL OF WEST INDIES
SQUADRON MIGHT NOT HAVE THAT EFFECT; MORETON ALLOWED
THAT IT MIGHT, BUT NOTED THAT THE TWO FRIGATES WERE NOT TO
BE WITHDRAWN FOR AT LEAST NINE MONTHS TO A YEAR.

4. ROGERS PROMISED TO TAKE UK VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT, ADDING
THAT WE WOULD INFORM THEM OF ANY DECISIONS ON THIS TOPIC
BEFORE ADVISING GUATEMALANS. INGERSOLL

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